



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

M. JODI RELL  
GOVERNOR

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## **GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES CONNECTICUT'S TOP RANKING FOR CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION COVERAGE LEVELS**

Governor M. Jodi Rell announced today that Connecticut is now ranked first in the nation for immunization levels of the most critical vaccines for pre-school children.

According to results from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) 2003 National Immunization Survey, Connecticut achieved a 94.0% coverage rate for the basic immunization series among children 19 to 35 months of age. Connecticut's vaccine coverage rate is more than 14% higher than the nation's average rate, and 26.5% higher than the lowest coverage rate. Connecticut has been among the top five states for childhood immunization coverage levels for the past nine years.

"These latest survey results demonstrate that Connecticut's Childhood Immunization Program is a model for the nation," Governor Rell said. "Due to the hard work of many people in public health, Connecticut is a leader in this vital area."

Governor Rell said, "We will continue focusing on protecting our children from deadly diseases and our goal is to achieve the immunization of each and every child in the state. Vaccines are one of the most important tools we have to protect the health of children."

Department of Public Health Commissioner J. Robert Galvin, M.D., M.P.H. attributed Connecticut's ranking to the department's Immunization Program and its collaborative efforts over the past years with CDC, state provider and community based organizations, including the CT Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the CT Commission On Children, and local health departments.

The state's success is based on the completed series of four doses of diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis combination; three doses of inactivated polio vaccine; one dose of measles, mumps, rubella vaccine; 3 doses of Haemophilus Influenzae type B vaccine; and 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine.

Following the national outbreak of measles in 1989-91, the CDC's Childhood Immunization Initiative (CII) was created to improve low early childhood immunization rates and take full advantage of the benefits of early vaccinations.

For additional information, visit the Department of Public Health website at [www.dph.state.ct.us](http://www.dph.state.ct.us).

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